

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 1, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 9 is canceled. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, and 11 have been amended. Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 6, and 7 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Objections to the specification

The specification is objected to for a minor informality. The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the objection to the specification should now be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 6 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,975,269 (Kosumi).

Independent claim 7 is amended to recite "said rotational connection arms comprise axially extending projections on the axial sides thereof to establish a nonrotatable connection of said ring-shaped body area to at least some of the friction disks of the friction

clutch, wherein said ring-shaped body area and radially inner ends of said rotational connection arms define recesses on both axial sides of said hub forming axial securing areas for securing said hub axially in position with respect to the at least some friction disks, and wherein radially inward facing ends of said axially extending projections define radially outer sides of said recesses, whereby said axially extending projections are arranged radially outside of said recesses". Support for these limitations is found at paragraph [0028], lines 6-9, and Figs. 3-6.

Kosumi fails to disclose that "radially inward facing ends of said axially extending projections define radially outer sides of said recesses", as expressly recited in independent claim 7. Kosumi discloses a multi-plate clutch having a frictional plate group 9 including drive plates 7 and driven plates 8. Radial projections 26 on the radially outer side of the drive plates 7 engage internal teeth 23a on a flywheel ring 5 and radial projections 27 on the radially inner side of driven plates 8 engage outer teeth 18a of portion 13 of the hub 6 (see col. 8, lines 9-20, of Kosumi). Slot grooves 13a are formed in a plurality of locations on an end face of the portion 13 of the hub 6 (see col. 7, lines 63-67). A driven plate 8' has contact portions 51 that extend into the slots 13a radially inwardly. The side of the slot 13a axially abuts the contact portion 51, thereby axially securing the driven plate 8'. Since the contact portions 51 extend radially inwardly into the slots 13a, Kosumi fails to disclose, teach or suggest "radially inward facing ends of said axially extending projections define radially outer sides of said recesses", as now expressly recited in independent claim 7.

Dependent claims 8 and 10-12, each being dependent on independent claim 7, are deemed to be allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 7, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

Rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

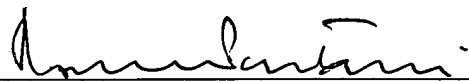
Claims 1-12 stand rejected as being anticipated by DE 203 02 735 (DE '735) under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). DE '735 has the same filing date as the priority application of the present invention. Filed concurrently herewith is a translation of the priority document which has the same filing date as DE '735. Since the filing date of DE '735 is not before the filing date of the priority document of the present application, i.e., the constructive date of the invention, DE '735 should be removed as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). In view of the above remarks, the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) should now be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is deemed to be in consideration for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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